

The National Weather Service in Grand Rapids has received many inquiries concerning the magnitude of this storm and how it compares to the Blizzard of 1978 in terms of accumulations. This statement will attempt to address the snowfall accumulations that occurred with this blizzard and how we determine records.

The National Weather Service considers a daily record (also known As a calendar day record) to occur from midnight to midnight. Therefore, any precipitation records that may occur are confined to this time period. For example, precipitation from one system that happens to cross the midnight time frame will have to be considered as occurring on two different days because it did not occur between midnight and midnight.

A storm total record is defined as the amount of precipitation that falls from start to finish with any given event. A storm total event could be one day, two days, etc. depending on how big the event was. Storm total records are occasionally issued by The National Weather Service.

With this latest storm, daily records were set for February 1 and February 2, respectively. No other official records were broken. Here are the new records that were set:

GRAND RAPIDS:

FEBRUARY 1...RECORD DAILY SNOWFALL OF 6.1" (PREVIOUS WAS 5.7" IN 1974)

FEBRUARY 2...RECORD DAILY SNOWFALL OF 11.1" (PREVIOUS WAS 5.2" IN 1994)

LANSING:

FEBRUARY 2...RECORD DAILY SNOWFALL OF 8.0" (PREVIOUS WAS 2.9" IN 1970)

MUSKEGON:

NO RECORDS WERE SET DURING THIS STORM.

It should be noted that the storm total snowfall for Grand Rapids with this event was 16.0" and not 17.2" (if you were to add the calendar day amounts from Tuesday and Wednesday). The reason for this is some of the snow that fell earlier in the day Tuesday was well out ahead of the blizzard and was not considered a part of the storm.

The Blizzard of 1978 set a record all-time calendar day snowfall of 16.1" in Grand Rapids. Even though this event rivaled that blizzard in terms of storm total snowfall, the highest calendar day snowfall with this storm in Grand Rapids is 11.1", which falls short of the 1978 record.

The following lists include the top 3 all time calendar day(midnight to midnight) snowfall measurements for Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Muskegon:

GRAND RAPIDS:

1. 16.1" (JAN 26 1978)
2. 14.2" (DEC 11 2000)
3. 14.0" (JAN 31 1914)

LANSING:

1. 15.4" (JAN 26 1967)
2. 15.1" (JAN 26 1978)
3. 14.5" (DEC 11 2000)

MUSKEGON:

1. 22.0" (JAN 10 1982)
2. 21.7" (JAN 26 1978)
3. 16.0" (NOV 14 1908)